

A distribution switch for a local exchange, including an access unit for switching video channels transmitted to subscribers in response to channel requests received from subscribers, and a control unit for controlling switching of the channels by the access unit in accordance with stored conditional access data. The conditional access data includes contact description data for the video channels and entitlement data for the subscribers, which is compared by the control unit for the channel requests. The switch may include a DVB interface unit for receiving DVB signals, extracting the video channels from the DVB signals, and multiplexing the video channels onto a data path for the access unit. The DVB interface unit can extract the conditional access data from the DVB signals.